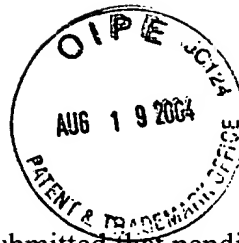


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed May 14, 2004. In the Office Action, claims 1-7 and 18-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and claims 1 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Particularly, claims 1-7 and 18-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,532,088 issued to Dantu and claims 1 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Dantu.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. The Examiner objects to claims 8-10 and 25-27 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 18 to include all of the limitations of dependent claims 8 and 25, respectively, and has cancelled claims 8 and 25, without prejudice. Applicant respectfully requests that independent claims 1 and 18 and all claims that depend therefrom be allowed.



Conclusion

In view of the remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1-7, 9, 10, 18-24, 26 and 27 define the subject invention over the prior art of record. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 02-2666 and please credit any excess fees to such account.

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AUG 23 2004

Technology Center 2600

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 8/16/2004

By

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Attachments

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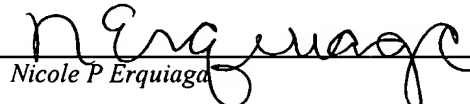
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